WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A camera control system for selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable cameras connected to a network, and performing video display and camera control, the system comprising:

map display means;

input means for designating one point on a map displayed by said map display means;

camera selection means for selecting an optimal camera capable of monitoring the point designated by said input means; and

camera control means for controlling the camera selected by said camera selection means.

2. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing information which determines a camera and a camera parameter in advance for each object displayed on the map, and

wherein said camera selection means selects a camera on the basis of the information stored in said storage means.

3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing information which determines a camera and a camera parameter in advance for each specific region on the map, and

wherein said camera selection means selects a camera on the basis of the information stored in said storage

means.

4.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said camera selection means comprises determination means for determining whether a camera as a selection candidate is being controlled by another user, and selects another camera when the camera as the selection candidate is determined to be controlled by another user.

5.   The system according to claim 1, wherein when a point other than a specific region on the map is designated by said input means, said camera selection means does not select any camera.

6.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said camera selection means comprises calculation means for calculating distances between the point input by said input means and the plurality of cameras, and selects based on a calculation result of said calculation means the nearest camera capable of sensing an image of the designated point.

7.   The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
       holding means for holding information about current image sensing ranges of the plurality of cameras; and
       determination means for determining based on the information held by said holding means whether a camera currently sensing an image of the point designated by said input means exists, and
       wherein said selection means selects the camera which is determined by said determination means to be currently

sensing the image of the designated point.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein said camera selection means can select a plurality of cameras capable of sensing an image of one point input

5 by said input means, and

said camera control means controls the plurality of cameras to the point input by said input means.

9. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting a camera to be controlled

10 and a camera parameter in accordance with the point designated on the map; and

storage means for storing information about the camera and the camera parameter that are set by said setting means.

15 10. A camera control method of selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable cameras connected to a network, and performing video display and camera driving, the method comprising:

the display step of displaying a map on a display;

20 the designation step of designating one point on the map displayed in the display step;

the camera selection step of selecting an optimal camera capable of monitoring the point designated in the designation step; and

25 the driving step of driving the camera selected in the camera selection step.

11.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

the storage step of storing information which determines a camera and a camera parameter in advance for each object displayed on the map, and

wherein the camera selection step comprises selecting a camera on the basis of the information stored in the storage step.

12.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

the storage step of storing information which determines a camera and a camera parameter in advance for each specific region on the map, and

wherein the camera selection step comprises selecting a camera on the basis of the information stored in the storage step.

13.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the camera selection step comprises the determination step of determining whether a camera as a selection candidate is being controlled by another user, and comprises selecting another camera when the camera as the selection candidate is determined to be controlled by another user.

14.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the camera selection step comprises, when a point other than a specific region on the map is designated in the designation step, not selecting any camera.

15.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the camera selection step comprises the calculation step of

calculating distances between one point designated in the

designation step and the plurality of cameras, and

comprises selecting based on a calculation result in the

calculation step the nearest camera capable of sensing an

5   image of the designated point.

16.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

the holding step of holding information about current

image sensing ranges of the plurality of cameras; and

the determination step of determining based on the

10   information held in the holding step whether a camera

currently sensing an image of the point designated in the

designation step exists, and

wherein selection step comprises selecting the

camera which is determined in the determination step to be

15   currently sensing image of the designated point.

17.   The method according to claim 10, wherein

the camera selection step comprises selecting a

plurality of cameras capable of sensing an image of the

point designated in the designation step, and

20   the driving step comprises controlling the plurality

of cameras to the point input in the designation step.

18.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

the setting step of setting a camera to be driven and

a camera parameter in accordance with the point designated

25   on the map; and

the storage step of storing information about the

camera and the camera parameter that are set in the setting

step.

19.   A storage medium storing a control program of

selecting at least one of a plurality of controllable

cameras connected to a network, and performing video

display and camera driving, wherein

the control program comprises:

a code of the display step of displaying a map on a

display;

a code of the designation step of designating one

point on the map displayed in the display step;

a code of the camera selection step of selecting an

optimal camera capable of monitoring the point designated

in the designation step; and

a code of the driving step of driving the camera

selected in the camera selection step.

20.   The medium according to claim 19, wherein

the code of the camera selection step comprises

selecting a plurality of cameras capable of sensing an image

of the point designated in the designation step; and

the code of the driving step comprises controlling

the plurality of cameras to the one point input in the

designation step.

21.   The medium according to claim 19, wherein the control

program further comprises:

a code of the setting step of setting a camera to be

driven and a camera parameter in accordance with the point

designated on the map; and

a code of the storage step of storing information

about the camera and the camera parameter that are set in

5   the setting step.